

CLAIMS

1. A process for analysing a biological sample, comprising the steps of: (a) identifying a micro-organism present within the sample; and (b) determining the effect of one or more antimicrobial(s) on a micro-organism from the sample, wherein steps (a) and (b) are performed by analysing the micro-organism's nucleic acid.
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2. The process of claim 1, wherein step (a) involves a nucleic acid hybridisation assay.
3. The process of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein step (b) involves a nucleic acid hybridisation assay.
4. The process of any preceding claim, wherein step (a) and/or step (b) involves amplification of nucleic acid from the micro-organism.
- 10 5. The process of claim 4, wherein nucleic acid amplification uses the polymerase chain reaction.
6. The process of claim 4 or claim 5, wherein nucleic acid amplification uses primers which are specific to a micro-organism of interest.
7. The process of any preceding claim, wherein the micro-organism's DNA is analysed.
8. The process of any preceding claim, wherein the micro-organism's RNA is analysed.
- 15 9. The process of claim 7 or claim 8, wherein said DNA or RNA is a rRNA or rDNA.
10. The process of any preceding claim, wherein micro-organisms are extracted from the sample prior to step (a).
11. The process of claim 10, wherein micro-organisms are extracted by immunomagnetic separation.
12. The process of any preceding claim, wherein the antimicrobial(s) used in step (b) are selected
20 based on the results of step (a).
13. The process of any preceding claim, wherein step (b) involves a comparison with data obtained in step (a).
14. The process of any preceding claim, wherein the micro-organism is a bacterium, a fungus, a parasite or a virus.
- 25 15. The process of any preceding claim, wherein the antimicrobial is an antibiotic, an antimycotic or an antiviral.